

# HUNTING UPDATE



STATE SENATOR 17th District

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Dear Friend,

As the days get shorter, countless sportsmen and women across Michigan begin planning for a rite of autumn – a fall hunting trip! Before you head out, I want to send along some hunting information. Along with a legislative report, this newsletter provides safety tips, hunting resources and more. I hope you find it informative.

I would also like to share news of a new Senate committee devoted solely to issues of interest to hunters, anglers and other outdoor sports enthusiasts – the Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Recreation Committee.

Statewide, hunting and fishing are multi-billion-dollar industries. Here in the 17th District, these outdoor pursuits are enjoyed by thousands of sportsmen and women. You can follow committee action at [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org).

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions on ways to preserve Michigan's outdoor heritage and look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes for a safe and successful hunting season!

Sincerely,

Randy Richardville  
State Senator  
17th District

**"Statewide, hunting and fishing are multi-billion-dollar industries. Here in the 17th District, these outdoor pursuits are enjoyed by thousands of sportsmen and women."**

Senator Randy Richardville



# SENATE COMMITTEE HEARS CONCERNS ABOUT NEW DISEASE

Earlier this year, state officials confirmed an outbreak of pseudorabies virus (PRV) in sport swine on several Michigan hunting ranches in a presentation before the Senate Committee on Agriculture. To date, the virus has only been found in sport and feral swine, but threatens the \$500 million commercial swine industry.

Hunters should know that the disease can also affect deer and cause sudden death in dogs. Humans are not affected.

The state is taking steps to help keep PRV from spreading and becoming a major problem like bovine TB, including:

- **Barring the import of swine for hunting purposes;**
- **Encouraging the shooting of feral swine; and**
- **Quarantining game ranches that have sport swine.**

Find information on shooting feral or wild swine at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

## DEER HUNTING UPDATE

### A LOOK AT LAST YEAR

Deer hunters had another good year in 2007! An estimated 683,000 hunters spent 19.7 million days in the field. Those hunters harvested nearly 484,000 deer, an increase of about 6 percent from the number taken in 2006. Statewide, 48 percent or nearly half of all hunters harvested a deer. About 16 percent of deer hunters harvested two or more deer.

Check out these statistics and more in the 2007 Deer Harvest Survey Report. Access it at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

(Click on **Hunting** on the left sidebar, then **White-Tailed Deer** in the **Game Species** box).



### A LOOK AHEAD – 2008 SEASONS

- **YOUTH AND 100-PERCENT DISABLED VETERANS DEER HUNT:**  
2-day hunt starting 4th Saturday in September (Sept. 27-28, 2008)
- **ARCHERY SEASON:**  
Oct. 1 - Nov. 14, 2008 &  
Dec. 1, 2008 - Jan. 1, 2009
- **REGULAR FIREARM SEASON:**  
Nov. 15-30, 2008
- **MUZZLELOADING SEASON:**  
**Zone 1 (UP):** 10 days starting 1st Friday in December (Dec. 5-14, 2008)  
**Zone 2 (NLP):** 10 days starting 2nd Friday in December (Dec. 12-21, 2008)  
**Zone 3 (SLP):** 17 days starting 1st Friday in December (Dec. 5-21, 2008)
- **LATE FIREARM SEASON:** (*antlerless deer on private land only in Open DMUs*)  
Dec. 22, 2008 - Jan. 1, 2009



# SENATOR RICHARDVILLE: OUR HUNTING HERITAGE – PASS IT ON!

The median age of Michigan hunters has increased steadily since the early 1970s. As fewer young people take up the sport, they remain more important than ever in keeping Michigan's hunting heritage alive.

Two years ago, the Legislature passed youth and apprentice hunting legislation, yet many people are unaware of the new laws.

The legal age to hunt deer, elk and bear with a firearm has been lowered from 14 to 12, and for small game from 12 to 10. Young hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and are required to successfully complete a hunter safety course before being licensed.



Many families look forward to the Youth Firearm Deer Hunting weekend, held September 27-28 this year. Last year, over 31,000 young hunters took part in this weekend event. **Be sure and check the 2008 Hunting and Trapping Guide or visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) for detailed information, including age restrictions, licenses and special rules.**

A person can also “try out the sport” by buying an apprentice hunting license for two years before having to pass a hunter safety course. Apprentices must be supervised by a fully-licensed, experienced hunter. It's a great way to introduce people of all ages to the sport!



## POACHERS BEWARE!

Michigan is a member of the “Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact,” an agreement in which participating states share information about fish and game violators and honor each other's decision to deny licenses and permits.

If your hunting, fishing or trapping license is revoked in Michigan, you will lose your privileges in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Failure to comply with the terms of a wildlife-related citation may result in license suspension in participating states.

## RICHARDVILLE OFFERS HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

Firearm hunting safety in 2007 showed a small improvement from the previous year.

Many injuries were due to the careless handling of a firearm and were entirely preventable. Before heading outdoors, remember to hunt with safety in mind, and follow these basic gun safety rules:

- **Always have complete control of your firearm.**
- **Always treat your firearm as if it was loaded.**
- **Before firing, know your target and what is beyond.**
- **Be sure the gun is safe to operate and use only the correct ammunition.**
- **Unload your firearm when not in use, especially before putting it in your vehicle or camp.**
- **And, NEVER mix hunting and alcohol.**

The DNR reported four fatal tree stand falls in 2007, so exercise caution when hunting from a tree. Hunting is a safe outdoor sport, but that doesn't happen by accident.

# '08 HUNTING UPDATE



**State Senator Randy Richardville**

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### **Senate bill leads to special deer hunt for disabled vets**

**T**here's a new addition to the deer season calendar this year! A hunt for disabled veterans will be held in conjunction with the youth firearm deer weekend, September 27-28.

Under Public Act 60 of 2007 (SB 633), this special weekend event is designed to help disabled veterans participate in outdoor activities, like hunting, that they may have enjoyed previously but need assistance to continue. Those who have become disabled while protecting our country have made an incredible sacrifice. This new law is one small way to thank them for their service.

Last year's pilot event was such a success that the Natural Resources Commission expanded it across the state.

#### **DNR resource guide**

Find rules and regulations, access the fall hunting guides, and more at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

Wildlife Division .....	517-373-1263
Fisheries.....	517-373-1280
Parks and Recreation .....	517-373-9900
Forest Management .....	517-373-1275
Law Enforcement .....	517-373-1230
Report All Poaching .....	1-800-292-7800
Campground Reservations .....	1-800-447-2757 or <a href="http://www.midnrrreservations.com">www.midnrrreservations.com</a>
Hunting License .....	<a href="http://www.mdnr-elicense.com">www.mdnr-elicense.com</a>

### **Senator Richardville eases pistol registration requirements**

Michigan hunters have a record to be proud of when it comes to gun safety. Taking this record into account, I introduced legislation that was recently signed by the governor giving pistol owners more flexibility in fulfilling their registration requirements. Under Senate Bill 370, now Public Act 194 of 2008, pistol owners will have the option of mailing the registration form to their appropriate local law enforcement official within 10 days rather than having to appear in person for an inspection and to turn in the registration form. This new law will make it easier and more convenient for law-abiding gun owners to complete the registration process.